

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-09

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 NIC-01 NEA-10

GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 /136 R

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LABOR DEPT. - MR. HOLMES (SUBS)

----- 065596

R 152056 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: AFL- CIO RESOLUTION ON EUROPE

REF: (A) BONN 3064, (B) BONN 3632

1. AS EMBASSY WILL HAVE NOTED FROM AIR- POUCHED COPY OF AFL- CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON " UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR THE SECURITY OF FREE EUROPE AND WORLD PEACE," THE RESOLUTION DEALT WITH A NUMBER OF INTERRELATED " EUROPEAN" SUBJECTS, INCLUDING CSCE, MBFR, AS WELL AS NATO AND REPRESENTS LARGELY AN UPDATING AND REAFFIRMATION OF PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED AFL- CIO VIEWS RELATING TO THESE POLICY ISSUES. JUDGING FROM THE EMBASSY' S DESCRIPTION, IT APPEARS THAT THE " DIE WELT" ACCOUNT OF THE RESOLUTION IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT.

2. AS FAR AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE RESOLUTION' S APPEAL TO " FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS" IN SUPPORT OF NATO DOES NOT SIGNIFY AFL- CIO INTENTION TO INITIATE NEW OR SPECIAL PURPOSE " DIALOGUE" OR OTHER SPECIFIC FOLLOW- UP ACTION WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS IN RESPECT OF NATO AND ATLANTIC COMMUNITY, AS EMBASSY SPECULATES PARA 4, REFTEL A.

3. IT IS OUR DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE AFL- CIO' S RELATIONS WITH THE WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS IN THE IMMEDIATELY FORESEEABLE FUTURE ARE LIKELY TO BE GOVERNED IN LARGE MEASURE BY ITS ADVERSE REACTION TO THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE RECENT FORMATION OF THE NEW EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC). GEORGE MEANY, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY CHARACTERIZED BRITISH TUC INTERNATIONAL POLICY AS BEING " ABSOLUTELY, COMPLETELY, DIAMETRICALLY...." DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE AFL- CIO AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS CONSTITUTING THE CREATION OF A " MOSCOW/ LONDON LABOR

AXIS....' IN THE SAME FEBRUARY 20 PRESS CONFERENCE HE OPINED THAT " THE PURPOSE OF THIS NEW EUROPEAN FEDERATION IS... TO COMPLETELY AND FINALLY DESTROY THE ICFTU." THESE VIEWS ALONG WITH AFL- CIO' S HIGHLY CRITICAL REACTIONS TO THE DECISION OF THE ETUC TO OMIT ANY REFERENCE TO " FREE" OR " DEMOCRATIC" IN ITS TITLE, PRESUMABLY IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID OFFENDING SOVIET SENSITIVITIES AND TO LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN TO POSSIBLE COMMUNIST UNION AFFILIATION IN THE FUTURE, AND TO GERMAN DGB PRESIDENT VETTER' S PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT THAT HE HAD AGREED TO ACT AS A " MESSENGER" FOR SHELEPIN PROVIDE SOME INSIGHT INTO THE PREVAILING CLIMATE WHICH IS LIKELY TO DOMINATE ANY AFL- CIO " DIALOGUE" WITH THE EUROPEAN UNIONS AT THIS TIME.

4. IN RE PARA 2 B, REFTTEL A, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE MOST USEFUL RESPONSE EMBASSY COULD MAKE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IS TO ADVISE VETTER IF HE RAISES THE QUESTION, TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH MEANY RE HIS TRAVEL PLANS TO THE US AND HIS INTEREST IN MEETING WITH HIM. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT AFL- CIO LIKELY BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO SUCH A DIRECT AND FORTHRIGHT APPROACH THAN TO ONE SHIELDED BY AN INTERMEDIARY, WHETHER PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENTAL, AND WILL GIVE SAME ADVICE TO GERMAN LABOR COUNSELOR VOSS IN WASHINGTON. DEPARTMENT WOULD, OF COURSE, LIKE TO BE INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO VETTER' S CONTEMPLATED VISIT TO THE US. ROGERS

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